

THE TIMES
BOYERTOWN, PA
W-5,671

Proposed landfill expansion discussed

The owners of Boyertown Sanitary Disposal Company have applied to the state Department of Environmental Resources for a permit to expand the Boyertown Landfill by 3.7 acres.

The expansion plans were announced at the March 18 meeting of the Douglass (Montg.) Township board of supervisors.

At the meeting, the board authorized its secretary to forward all the material on the proposed landfill expansion to CKS Engineers for their review. Warren Frame, Boyertown Sanitary Disposal owner, was present at the meeting. He was asked to provide an additional copy of the information or the township's records. Frame agreed to do so.

Township solicitor Sherwood Merges said that the landfill owners would have to apply to the township zoning board for a special exception or a non-conforming use, even if DER approves the expansion.

The application requests a 3.7-acre expansion to the already-existing 33.7 acres now used by the landfill.

No more funds

In other business, the supervisors voted against spending another \$375 in addition to the \$1500 they have already allotted for a feasibility study for District Five's solid waste management plan.

Clem Seroski, the township's representative to District Five, told the supervisors that District Five had awarded a \$15,000 bid for the feasibility study to Sanders and Thomas Engineers, when there was a lower bid for \$9000. The bid would require an extra \$375 from each municipality in District 5.

Seroski said that Montgomery County told District 5 members that the county would not pay for the difference since they have already performed a study on the project.

Seroski urged that the township participate in the county plan. If the township does participate, Douglass

(Montg.) must deliver the township trash stream to the county plant.

The board also . . .

. . . authorized Ann Rhoads to take over the refreshment stand at Douglass Park.

. . . noted that the holes on Jackson and Sweinhart Roads have been filled following sewer construction by Drum Construction.

March 11 meeting

The following actions were taken at the board's March 11 meeting.

The board . . .

. . . discussed building renovations with architect Thomas Farmer.

. . . awarded the contract for a four-wheel drive dump truck to James S. Quigley Chevrolet for a bid of \$10,497.

. . . authorized the purchase of a new snow plow from James S. Quigley Chevrolet for \$1135.

. . . reviewed a letter from the Montgomery County Planning Commission concerning an application from Boyertown Sanitary Disposal

to DER to accept process waste from Papers Manufacturers Company and to accept asbestos waste. The county planning commission recognized the township's concerns regarding the applications and felt that these concerns should be addressed by the applicant and DER before any permit is issued.

. . . learned that Chief Ziegler will interview applicants for a part-time police officer and make his recommendations to the board at its April 8 meeting.

Pretreatment program approved for BMMA industrial users

By SEAN McKINNEY
Mercury Staff Writer

The Berks-Mont Municipal Authority (BMMA) recently received final approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a federally-mandated sewage pretreatment program dealing with industrial discharges.

BMMA attorney Paul Prince said the local authority was the first in eastern Pennsylvania and second in the state to receive approval, out of 90 in the process of adopting the program statewide.

The program will do several things:

- Give BMMA authority to enforce violations of federal and local pollution standards. This is expected to save much time and expense involved in previous enforcement through court litigation.
- Enable the authority to better analyze and monitor industrial discharge into the treatment plant.
- Require BMMA's industrial users to provide information about the discharge and, if necessary, monitor their operations for hazardous materials and treat the discharge before it flows into BMMA's plant.
- Calls for public disclosure of the contents of discharges handled by BMMA. The authority's attorney, Paul Prince, said BMMA will now identify hazardous wastes it handles in yearly reports published in newspapers.
- Save BMMA between \$50,000 and \$60,000 a year spent on trucking sludge to proper treatment plants. The savings will come as a result of the program's comprehensive monitoring and analyzing methods, which will allow BMMA officials to sort out non-contaminated sludge for application on

farm land. Previously, all sludge had to be trucked away because of the uncertainty of hazardous content.

- Provide rules that will govern who will be allowed to hook up to BMMA's treatment plant.

- Ensure better quality drinking water because of cleaner discharges of treated water from BMMA's plant into local streams.

Preserving and improving water quality is the chief aim of the program, which will eventually have to be adopted by many other treatment plants in the area, including the one in Pottstown.

"Ultimately," said Prince, "from all parameters of the sewage system, the public can rest easier and rely more confidently on the quality of water because of this."

John Lovell, an EPA engineer, said the program is required by federal rules approved three years ago. It is necessary to make sure treatment plants live up to requirements of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit, which treatment plants are required to have.

Prince said implementing the program has been an ongoing process at BMMA for a little over a year.

Preliminary work included identifying industrial users and the content of their discharges, analysis of the plant operation, development of local hazardous waste limits, creating procedures for sampling, analyzing and updating surveys, meeting with EPA officials and adopting a local ordinance to enforce violations.

Supporting the program is an ordinance passed in Douglass (Montgomery) Township in March which calls for fines of up to \$300 a day per

violation. The ordinance also gives BMMA the authority to shut off service to a violator.

Prince said this "enabling legislation" simplifies BMMA's task of making sure high amounts of hazardous wastes don't pass into its system.

"Before the procedure called for litigating the matter through the court," said Prince. "It was expensive and called for extensive hearings. Now it will be a simplified, quick, fair procedure that addresses the issues directly . . . A lot more decision-making power has been left to the authority now instead of the courts."

Prince said the program will call for more expensive testing, which will be done at BMMA and at offsite laboratories.

Michael Pohronezny, EPA engineer, said initial costs will be between \$10,000 to \$15,000.

"There will be other costs involved — administrative, inspection and enforcement costs that we can't determine yet," said Pohronezny. "We sort have to feel our way around the first year."

EPA's Lovell said the new program is required for any plant that discharges more than five millions gallons of treated waste water a day into streams.

The standards contained in Douglass' (Montgomery) ordinance are based on "EPA categorical pretreatment standards," said Lovell.

EPA stands as the higher authority, making sure the local ordinance is enforced and intervening upon request from the local plant.

Lovell said EPA's method of policing pretreatment programs has not yet been established; but will probably call for the plants to publish annual or semi-annual reports on their operations.

THIS WOULD LET YOU
BELIEVE THAT WE CAN
STOP WORRYING.

4 Hearings set Monday to determine puzzling status of area landfill

By MICHAEL SANGIACOMO
Mercury Staff Writer

Hearings will begin Monday on a Department of Environmental Resources (DER) order to close the Boyertown Sanitary Landfill in Gilbertsville and the Berks-Montgomery Municipal Association (BMMA) will be an unwilling participant.

BMMA solicitor Paul Prince told the board Monday night that the DER closure order chastised the landfill for allowing leachate to contaminate the groundwater of the area. In its response to the DER, the landfill owners maintained that the reason for the contamination was that the BMMA stopped taking the leachate, which caused the substance to overflow the holding lagoons.

(Continued on page 3)



Hearings slated to determine landfill status

(Continued from page one)

The hearings will add yet another stormy chapter to a case already so legally-convoluted that it has attorneys' heads spinning. On Feb. 7 the BMMA plugged an intake pipe from the landfill when they learned that the leachate contained hazardous wastes. Previously, the sewage treatment plant took the leachate, processed it, and discharged it into a local creek.

The move was challenged by the landfill to the DER's Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) which has the final authority under the DER. The decision of the EHB can be appealed to the court system.

Prince said even while the EHB is holding a hearing on closing the landfill for good, the DER is still considering a request from the landfill to permit it to expand to almost twice its current size. Monday's hearing will also address the landfill's status as a DER-approved hazardous waste depository.

"According to this letter, the landfill maintains that it struck a bargain with the DER," Prince said. "Boyertown Sanitary Landfill said that it agreed in a meeting with DER to give up its hazardous waste status if the DER would expediate the expansion request. Now the landfill is saying the deal is off because the DER hasn't processed its request yet. They maintain they still have their hazardous waste status."

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DIS REFINERY BLAST — page 5

7-24-84

7-31-84

Boyertown landfill hearings postponed

Hearings on an order to permanently close the Boyertown Sanitary Landfill in Gilbertsville were postponed indefinitely Monday at the request of the landfill owners.

The hearings were scheduled to begin Monday before the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Environmental Hearing Board.

The DER closed the landfill for numerous environmental violations, including allowing leachate to contaminate the groundwater of the area. In its response to the DER, the landfill owners maintained that the reason for the contamination was that the Berks-Montgomery Municipal Authority stopped taking the leachate into its system, which caused the substance to overflow the holding lagoons.

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intake pipe from the landfill when they learned that the leachate contained hazardous wastes. Previously, the sewage treatment plant took the leachate, processed it, and discharged it into a local creek.

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BMMA Attorney Paul Prince said even while the EHB is holding a hearing on closing the landfill for good, the DER is still considering a request from the landfill to permit it to expand to almost twice its current size. The hearing, whenever it is held, will also address the landfill's status as a DER-approved hazardous waste depository.

RIGHT BACK
WHERE WE
STARTED